

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12624 181635Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /011 W
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O R 181345Z SEP 76 ZZY
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7157
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OTRA, EG
SUBJ: VISIT OF ACTION DIRECTOR BALZANO

REF: STATE 231241

1. AS I SUSPECTED PROPER ARRANGEMENTS FOR DR. BALZANO'S VISIT HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN MADE. CONSUL FICHTE IN ALEANDRIA REACHED PROFESSOR ATIF, WHO SAID SHE WAS "STILL TRYING" TO OBTAIN HOTEL RESERVATIONS. SHE HAS MEDE APPOINTMENT FOR DR. BALSANO TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AISHA RATEB AT 11 A.M. WEDNESDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 22, AND SHE UNDERSTANDS DR. RATEB IS IN CHARGE OF REST OF HIS PROGRAM. PROFESSOR ATIF IS SENDING A FRIEND TO MEET DR. BALZANO AT AIRPORT. SINCE DR. BALZANO IS NOT GOING TO ALEXANDRIA, PROFESSOR ATIF DOES NOT EXPECT TO SEE HIM . FICHTE SAYS SHE WAS QUITE CASUAL ABOUT ACTION DIRECTOR'S VISIT.

2. WHEN I REACHED MINISTER RATEB BY PHONE SHE EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT SHE WAS ALLEGEDLY IN CHARGE OF PROGRAM FOR VISIT. ALL SHE HAD AGREED TO DO WAS MEET WITH VISITING AMERICAN, RECOMMENDED TO HER BY PROFESSOR ATIF, WHO WANTED TO DISCUSS VOLUNTEER WORK, AND SHE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO THIS. SHE KNEW

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12624 181635Z

NOTING ABOUT HOTEL RESERVATIONS, WHICH SHE THOUGHT

WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AT THIS LATE DATE.
MINISTER RATEB SAID SHE WOULD MEET WITH DR. BALZANO
IF HE SHOWED UP AT 11 A.M. WEDNESDAY, BUT OTHER-
WISE SHE HAD NOTING TO DO WITH HIS VISIT.

3. WE AGREE WITH MINISTER RATEB THAT HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
WOULD NORMALLY BE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WE WILL HOLD ON
TO 4 ROOMS RESERVED AT MERIDIEN FOR STR DENT AND HIS
3 AIDES, WHOSE SEPTEMBER 21 TO 23 VISIT WAS
FORTUITOUSLY CANCELLED TODAY BY STATE 231064, IN
CASE DESPITE TOTAL CONFUSION DESCRIBED ABOVE, DR.
VALZANO DECIDES TO COME ANYWAY. WE DO NOT SEE HOW
VISIT BY DR. BALZANO UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES COULD
HAVE ANY USEFUL RESULT, BUT WILL TRY TO WORK OUT
SOMETHING IF HE COMES ANYWAY. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL CONVEY TO ACTION THAT
THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR FOLLOWING ESTABLISHED
PROCEDURES FOR SENIOR-LEVEL OFFICIAL VISITS ABROAD.
MATTHEWS

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